

Region II Interagency Coordinating Committee
5/23/05 meeting minutes

In attendance: Patty Redding, Scott Redding, Marlys Albright, Nancy Rubbelke, Wendy Thomas, Kathy Lee, Holly Pedersen, Mary Lou Holliday, Melissa Flood, Chris Strom, Andrea Tichy, Keith Gustafson, Lori Matthys, Dawn Klein, Bernadine Young Bird, Thea Holm

1. Introductions took place as some members have not attended in some time.
2. Wendy Thomas passed around and briefly reviewed the minutes from the last meeting (2/28/05).
3. Remaining 2005 meeting dates were announced. They will be held 8/22/05 and 11/21/05 from 10:00am to 2:00pm at NCHSC Conference Room A.
4. Beginning June 1st, 2005 the ND School for the Deaf Parent Infant Outreach Program will be able to assist in hearing screenings. Holly Pedersen demonstrated the equipment used during the screenings (called an OAE or Otoacoustic Emission machine). Procedures for conducting hearing screenings and what the results mean were discussed. Priority for hearing screenings will be given to Infant Development evaluations done at intake. All other requests (such as annual assessments) will be granted only if there is available staff and time to perform the screening. Further discussion was held regarding children requiring sedation in order to have their hearing screened (after an initial hearing screen has established appropriate hearing levels). It was mentioned that the benefits of conducting an annual hearing screening on some children may not outweigh the risks in achieving the screen.
5. Kathy announced that several RFP's (Requests for Proposals) are upcoming. They were expected to be in the newspaper 5-22-05; however, none were noted. Further discussion regarding these proposals will be held once the RFP's are open to the public. Committee members have been asked to participate in editing any written efforts made. All agreed.
6. Member binders were given to committee members not in attendance at the February meeting. The binder contains information about the history of the RICC, member expectations, meeting information, the QIP, commonly used forms, and resources. Extra binders have been made to share with new members as they join the committee.
7. Bernadine Young Bird provided an update from Fort Berthold. The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) is providing funding directly to the tribes to provide "Basic Services" via the Early Childhood Exceptional Education Office; of which Bernadine is the director. Multiple efforts have been made to establish services in Fort Berthold to young children. One such effort is the CHILD (Childhood Home Visits Involving Learning & Development) Program. Bernadine passed out a brochure describing the CHILD program. Discussion was held in how to handle referrals to the CHILD program and how this program will work with Right Track. Bernadine also mentioned that monitoring of the program will follow the CIFMS process and asked that partnering agencies be willing to write MOA's (Memorandums of Agreement).
8. Marlys Albright and Thea Holm provided a Right Track report for Region II. From 1/1/05 to 3/31/05, there were 135 children screened (of which 52 were new referrals) and 3 referred from Right Track to DDCM. Referral sources to Right Track included Trinity Hospital, Parents,

Children's Special Health Services, Infant Development, Country Cousins, Heart of America Medical Center in Rugby, Health Tracks, a Social Worker, and CAPTA (3).

9. No State ICC report was given due to lack of committee representation. Discussion was held favoring the idea of having someone from our region serve on the State ICC.
10. Patty Redding reported on feedback from the parent focus groups. She mentioned that parents liked meeting together and felt that the networking was good. Parents also reported an overwhelmed feeling (especially in the beginning of Part C services and when transitioning out) and suggested that we look at different ways of presenting our materials. Scott Redding suggested a one page summary of services available including the agency name, eligibility criteria, and contact information. Wendy Thomas has agreed to research this topic further and present at the next meeting. It was also suggested that our Experienced Parent visit the family a few weeks after enrollment to go over paperwork. Kathy Lee will talk with our Experience Parent to begin this service.
11. Based on a previous review, Kathy presented our Region's strengths and upcoming challenges. Main areas to work on include hearing and vision screenings, family assessments, multi-disciplinary teams, content of the present level of functioning, the inclusion of natural learning in the IFSP's, transition, and timelines for the 6 month review. The document created to address these needs is called the *Regional Compliance Work Plan*. Discussion was held in how to address each of these needs. It was agreed that once a rough draft of a family assessment has been made, it will be edited by RICC members to ensure the complete gathering of information in a family-friendly manner.
12. Any upcoming conferences and trainings were announced. The ND Family Connections Conference will be held June 8-10 in Fargo. Brochures for this event were passed out to anyone interested. There will also be the GRAAIN conference held August 1-2 at UND focusing on Autism Spectrum Disorders.

Submitted by Wendy Thomas